

6 a fill tube extending into said passageway of said hood to dispense product for filling
7 said pouch; and

8 means for moving said pouch into said passageway to said fill tube, said means for
9 moving supporting said opening of said pouch in said pressurized gas while product from
10 said fill tube is dispensed into said pouch[.] said means including a turret for moving said
11 pouches through said passageway, said turret having a plurality of stations, said hood
12 extending over at least one station, said turret having an opening station upstream of said
13 hood.

1 *88*
2 *12.* (New) An apparatus for filling a pouch having an opening with a product, said
3 apparatus comprising:

4 a hood having at least one wall defining a passageway, said passageway being open to
5 air from outside said hood, said hood having means for dispersing pressurized gas into said
6 passageway to displace said air from outside said hood, said means for dispersing comprising
7 a dispersion plate mounted to said hood and having a plurality of perforations;

8 a fill tube extending into said passageway of said hood to dispense product for filling
9 said pouch; and

10 means for moving said pouch into said passageway to said fill tube, said means for
11 moving supporting said opening of said pouch in said pressurized gas while product from
12 said fill tube is dispensed into said pouch.

1 *13. 9*
2 *13.* (New) The apparatus as set forth in claim *12*, further comprising a first nozzle
3 mounted to said hood and extending into said passageway upstream of said fill tube for
4 injecting gas into said pouch to purge oxygen from said pouch.

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